

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Plaintiff, a state prisoner proceeding *pro se*, filed a civil rights complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 alleging that Deputy Broughas, an employee of the Lake County Sheriff's Department, violated his constitutional rights. Plaintiff's motions for leave to proceed in forma pauperis are granted in a separate order. For the reasons stated below, the Court orders service on the Defendant Broughas.

## DISCUSSION

## A. Standard of Review

A federal court must conduct a preliminary screening in any case in which a prisoner seeks redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). In its review, the Court must identify any cognizable claims and dismiss any claims that are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim upon which relief may be granted or seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. *See* 28 U.S.C.

§ 1915A(b)(1), (2). *Pro se* pleadings must, however, be liberally construed. *See Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep’t.*, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1988).

To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a plaintiff must allege two essential elements: (1) that a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was violated, and (2) that the alleged violation was committed by a person acting under the color of state law. *See West v. Atkins*, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988).

## B. Plaintiff's Claims

Plaintiff alleges that on April 28, 2010, he was transported from Mule Creek State Prison to Lake County Jail. As Broughas was booking Plaintiff into the jail, she asked from where he was being transported. Plaintiff responded that he was at Mule Creek in the sensitive needs yard. After informing Broughas that he would “probably” have problems if she housed him in general population, she responded that she was going to house him there anyway. Plaintiff answered that he would go wherever she ordered him to because it was her jail. Approximately one hour later, Plaintiff was released with fifteen other general population male inmates into the dayroom. Plaintiff was attacked and beaten by several of the inmates. Plaintiff managed to escape to his cell and eventually received treatment for his injuries. Broughas appeared to be pleased by Plaintiff’s injuries. Liberally construed, Plaintiff has stated a cognizable claim against Broughas for a failure to protect, in violation of the Eighth Amendment. The Court exercises its supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff’s state law tort claim as well.

## CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the court hereby orders as follows:

1. The Clerk shall issue a summons and the United States Marshal shall serve, without prepayment of fees, copies of the complaint in this matter (docket no. 1), all attachments thereto, and copies of this order on **Deputy Sheriff Broughas** of the **Lake County Sheriff's Department** in Lake, CA. The Clerk shall also serve a copy of this order on Plaintiff and mail a courtesy copy of the complaint to the California Attorney General's Office.

2. No later than **ninety (90) days** from the date of this order, Defendant shall file a motion for summary judgment or other dispositive motion with respect to the cognizable claims

1 in the complaint.

2 a. If Defendant elects to file a motion to dismiss on the grounds that Plaintiff  
3 failed to exhaust his available administrative remedies as required by 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(a),  
4 Defendant shall do so in an unenumerated Rule 12(b) motion pursuant to *Wyatt v. Terhune*, 315  
5 F.3d 1108, 1119-20 (9th Cir. 2003).

6 b. Any motion for summary judgment shall be supported by adequate factual  
7 documentation and shall conform in all respects to Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil  
8 Procedure. **Defendant is advised that summary judgment cannot be granted, nor qualified**  
9 **immunity found, if material facts are in dispute. If Defendant is of the opinion that this**  
10 **case cannot be resolved by summary judgment, she shall so inform the Court prior to the**  
11 **date the summary judgment motion is due.**

12 3. Plaintiff's opposition to the dispositive motion shall be filed with the court and  
13 served on Defendant no later than **thirty (30) days** from the date Defendant's motion is filed.

14 a. In the event Defendant files an unenumerated motion to dismiss under  
15 Rule 12(b), Plaintiff is hereby cautioned as follows:<sup>1</sup>

16 The defendants have made a motion to dismiss pursuant to Rule 12(b) of  
17 the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, on the ground you have not exhausted your  
18 administrative remedies. The motion will, if granted, result in the dismissal of  
19 your case. When a party you are suing makes a motion to dismiss for failure to  
20 exhaust, and that motion is properly supported by declarations (or other sworn  
21 testimony) and/or documents, you may not simply rely on what your complaint  
says. Instead, you must set out specific facts in declarations, depositions, answers  
to interrogatories, or documents, that contradict the facts shown in the defendant's  
declarations and documents and show that you have in fact exhausted your  
claims. If you do not submit your own evidence in opposition, the motion to  
dismiss, if appropriate, may be granted and the case dismissed.

22 b. In the event Defendant files a motion for summary judgment, the  
23 Ninth Circuit has held that the following notice should be given to plaintiffs:

24 The defendants have made a motion for summary judgment by which  
25 they seek to have your case dismissed. A motion for summary judgment under  
Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure will, if granted, end your case.

27 <sup>1</sup> The following notice is adapted from the summary judgment notice to be given to pro se  
28 prisoners as set forth in *Rand v. Rowland*, 154 F.3d 952, 963 (9th Cir. 1998) (en banc). See  
*Wyatt v. Terhune*, 315 F.3d at 1120 n.14.

1                   Rule 56 tells you what you must do in order to oppose a motion for  
 2 summary judgment. Generally, summary judgment must be granted when there is  
 3 no genuine issue of material fact--that is, if there is no real dispute about any fact  
 4 that would affect the result of your case, the party who asked for summary  
 5 judgment is entitled to judgment as a matter of law, which will end your case.  
 6 When a party you are suing makes a motion for summary judgment that is  
 7 properly supported by declarations (or other sworn testimony), you cannot simply  
 8 rely on what your complaint says. Instead, you must set out specific facts in  
 9 declarations, depositions, answers to interrogatories, or authenticated documents,  
 10 as provided in Rule 56(e), that contradict the facts shown in the defendants'  
 11 declarations and documents and show that there is a genuine issue of material fact  
 12 for trial. If you do not submit your own evidence in opposition, summary  
 13 judgment, if appropriate, may be entered against you. If summary judgment is  
 14 granted in favor of defendants, your case will be dismissed and there will be no  
 15 trial.

16                  See *Rand v. Rowland*, 154 F.3d 952, 963 (9th Cir. 1998) (en banc). Plaintiff is advised to read  
 17 Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317  
 18 (1986) (holding party opposing summary judgment must come forward with evidence showing  
 19 triable issues of material fact on every essential element of his claim). Plaintiff is cautioned that  
 20 failure to file an opposition to Defendant's motion for summary judgment may be deemed to be a  
 21 consent by plaintiff to the granting of the motion, and granting of judgment against plaintiff  
 22 without a trial. See *Ghazali v. Moran*, 46 F.3d 52, 53-54 (9th Cir. 1995) (per curiam); *Brydges v.*  
 23 *Lewis*, 18 F.3d 651, 653 (9th Cir. 1994).

24                  4.        Defendant shall file a reply brief no later than **fifteen (15) days** after Plaintiff's  
 25 opposition is filed.

26                  5.        The motion shall be deemed submitted as of the date the reply brief is due. No  
 27 hearing will be held on the motion unless the court so orders at a later date.

28                  6.        All communications by the Plaintiff with the court must be served on Defendant,  
 29 or Defendant's counsel once counsel has been designated, by mailing a true copy of the  
 30 document to Defendant or Defendant's counsel.

31                  7.        Discovery may be taken in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.  
 32 No further court order is required before the parties may conduct discovery.

33                  For Plaintiff's information, the proper manner of promulgating discovery is to send  
 34 demands for documents or interrogatories (questions asking for specific, factual responses)  
 35 directly to Defendant's counsel. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 33-34. The scope of discovery is limited to

1 matters "relevant to the claim or defense of any party . . ." See Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(1).  
2 Discovery may be further limited by court order if "(i) the discovery sought is unreasonably  
3 cumulative or duplicative, or is obtainable from some other source that is more convenient, less  
4 burdensome, or less expensive; (ii) the party seeking discovery has had ample opportunity by  
5 discovery in the action to obtain the information sought; or (iii) the burden or expense of the  
6 proposed discovery outweighs its likely benefit." Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(2). In order to comply  
7 with the requirements of Rule 26, before deciding to promulgate discovery plaintiff may find it  
8 to his benefit to wait until defendants have filed a dispositive motion which could include some  
9 or all of the discovery plaintiff might seek. In addition, no motion to compel will be considered  
10 by the Court unless the meet-and-confer requirement of Rule 37(a)(2)(B) and N.D. Cal. Local  
11 Rule 37-1 has been satisfied. Because Plaintiff is detained, he is not required to meet and confer  
12 with Defendant in person. Rather, if his discovery requests are denied and he intends to seek a  
13 motion to compel, he must send a letter to Defendant to that effect, offering her one last  
14 opportunity to provide him with the sought-after information.

15 8. It is Plaintiff's responsibility to prosecute this case. Plaintiff must keep the Court  
16 and all parties informed of any change of address and must comply with the Court's orders in a  
17 timely fashion. Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of this action for failure to prosecute  
18 pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

19 IT IS SO ORDERED.

20 DATED: 11/8/2010

  
21 LUCY H. KOH  
United States District Judge

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